

[Interview with Vito Cacciola #13]

ORIGINAL MSS. OR FIELD NOTES (Check one)

PUB. Living Lore in New England

TITLE Italian Cobbler Beverly #15 (M. R. Lovett)

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SOURCES GIVEN (?) Interview with Vite Cacciola

COMMENTS

[??]

Paper No. 13

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INTERVIEW

with

VITO CACCIOLA

. . .

by

Merton R. Lovett

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. . .

“As well as remembered”

. . .

INTERVIEW WITH VITO CACCIOLA

by Merton R. Lovett

. . .

(from memory)

“Yes, Tony, you can go out to play for little while.

Keepa your mouth shut! Keepa it shut! How you lika Jack

Frost to jump in and maka aches?

“Looka Tony's cheek. It's mucha big. Perhaps you think he's gotta mouth stuffed with chestnuts?

“No, it is not that mumps. It is de tooth. Eh, Tony?

“Stopa Tony! Does you talk of de Devil he getta you sure. Excuse him, Mr. Lovett. He's hava much pain in de tooth. He's not been to de school for three days.

All righta, dear, runa along.

“He's neighbor's boy. He doa my errands good.

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I lika him. Much I try to maka him de good boy. Sometime he talks like bum. Perhaps he learna to swear in de school.

I teacha him de good manners, I teacha him respect for de Blessed Lord.

“Does I ever have toothache? Does I? Oh, my jingo once I think I go crazy, For week it achea like Hell. Oh, forgive me, Mr, Lovett. When I think of that sorrow, I 2 forgeta everything.

“Sure, I go to de dentist. Two, three times he tortures me. When he say, ‘Does I hurta you.’ I mosta forgets myself. By damn, it keepa me from sleep for week. Den I tell that butcher to stopa de monkey business and pulla him out. Oh miserere! Miserere!

“De nexta night I sleepa like dead man. When I wakes up I is glad. I thanka de good Lord. Every mornings now I thanka Him quick for de good sleep and de good health.

“Perhaps you is right. Perhaps de Italians does have better teeth as de Americans. But many Italians has toothache. Some must hava de unnatural teeth. And some of my American customers has nica teeth.

“So you has de falsa teeth! I'ma sorry. I never suspect-ed.”

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“Me, I hava no time for de club and societies.

De mans with wives they can spenda much hours there.

When de work is complet-ed, they hava de supper already.

They eata and then make absence for de evening.

“They swapa bad stories. They swapa drinks.

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They playa de cards. It is late when they sneaka home.

Their wives get mucha grief.

“Me, I getta my own supper. I washa de dishes and maka much neatness. I waita on de customers. Then I practice de music. Sometimes I study.

“Always, I must keepa in, what you call it, de training. Sometime I am ask-ed to maka talk. I must also be prepar-ed for music scholar. I must keep my will and de heart strong to defeata temptation.

“When I worka I thinka much. Always I keepa notebook here under de bench. When I gotta good thought I writa him there. I also write there my plans and de duties. Never do I getta idle or wasta time.”